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PROGRESS REPORT OF THE GEOGRAPHIC AREA, ORR

MONTH OF JANUARY 1959

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF, GEOGRAPHIC RESEARCH

A. Accomplishments and Coordination Activities

1. Production and services in the Geographic Research Area rose to generally higher levels during January. Except for a Geographic Intelligence Review (MR-56), most of the maps and reports completed were in support of DD/I components. Work in hand includes various UW and NIS projects, an administrative atlas of Mainland China, a revision of G-15, The Soviet Arctic, the USSR city plans program, and a contribution to NIE 11-6-59. Among new projects expected to develop during February are a study on the Kurdish problem and the production of a Geographic Intelligence Review devoted wholly to Africa.

2. The Cartography Division completed 85 maps and charts -- 81 for the Agency and 4 for the Department of State. Requests were accepted for 120 maps and charts -- 120 for CIA components and 2 for the Department of State.

3. The Geography Division completed one Geographic Intelligence Review (MR-56); two Geographic Intelligence Reports (GR-197, Agroclimatic Evaluation of the Soviet Corn Program; and GR 59-1, The Distance Factors in the Placement of ICBM Launch Sites in the USSR); one NIS Chapter IX (NIS 2, Ireland); one NIS Section 19 of Chapter I (NIS 2, Ireland); one Map and Chart Appraisal component of the NIS Chapter I Annual (NIS 26, USSR); and six geographic memoranda in the G/I series.

4. The Map Library Division received 7,785 foreign-published maps during the month, of which 33% were retained in CIA; 42% sent to AMS; and 21% to the Library of Congress. Among the significant items received were some Brazilian city plans; a 1958 tourist map of Rumania at 1:1,000,000; a 1958 climatic atlas of Czechoslovakia; and plans of a number of East German cities. The Division sent out 22,371 map sheets in response to 1,135 requests; in addition, 277 geographic and cartographic items were distributed in response to 114 requests.

5. Chief/G took action during the month to attempt to resolve problems created by the apparent production of finished intelligence by PP/C/TAB. A meeting was first convened at which [REDACTED] Chief of PP/C/TAB, and several GRA personnel discussed the purpose and scope of the TAB production activity. It was agreed that the TAB studies

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may fulfill real needs, but that the procedures normally employed in compiling them do not square with accepted research techniques or with Agency publications standards. The group agreed that ORR should play a larger role in the studies so as better to assure their essential validity. Subsequent to this meeting, Chief/G met with [REDACTED] Chief of PP/C, to discuss the UW program in general. Mr. [REDACTED] is currently preparing a staff study which seeks to obtain clarification of the priority status of the UW program. Chief/G drew his attention to the problem of determining where UW support studies should normally be produced -- in the field or at headquarters -- and to the question of the relationship of the broader TAB type of study to MIS responsibilities. It was agreed that the G-2 Production Division sort of activity into which the TAB work is developing warrants a closer look at DD/P-DD/I relationships and a consideration of the placement of a DD/I research beachhead in the DD/P. Mr. [REDACTED] plans to check back with Chief/G before transmittal of the staff study.

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6. Mr. [REDACTED] D/GG, participated in two inter-agency meetings related to the question of a US mapping program in the Antarctic. At one meeting, held at USGS, further progress was made in the development of a specific proposal. The other meeting, held in State Department, was concerned with briefing the U.S. delegate to the forthcoming meeting on Antarctic mapping to be held by the Special Committee on Antarctic Research in Canberra, March 1959.

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7. The [REDACTED] progressed during the month to the extent of completion of the first "trip" map. Between forty and fifty of the "trip" maps are being planned for the coming year.

8. Conferences were held by Cartography Division personnel with representatives of DD/P to plan a series of maps for field operational use and headquarters training. Mr. [REDACTED] will present a related series of lectures on sketch mapping in an Isolation area, 2-6 March.

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9. The Special Assistant to Chief/G presented a briefing on GRA personnel needs before Office of Personnel's annual assembly of field recruiters.

10. Chief, D/GL, served as a U.S. delegate to the Vth Consultation of the Commission on Geography of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History at Quito, Ecuador, 7 to 16 January 1959.

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